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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF INFORMATION  
PRESS SERVICE

Picture Story No. 36  
Release - August 10, 1947

COMMUNITY CANNING GETS UNDER WAY

With fresh fruits and garden produce coming into abundance, community canning centers throughout the country -- if not already in operation -- are tooling up for the season. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, this year's food preservation activity could well exceed even that of the war years. Improved supplies of sugar and canning and freezing equipment would account for the difference. The Department's annual home and community food preservation program this year is dedicated to the long-range objectives of better nutrition, an abundance of good food for more people, and a maximum use of the products from our farms and gardens.

In many American homes, food preserving is a family affair. But canning bees, where several friends and neighbors pool their efforts, are common, and in recent years the community canning center has become increasingly popular. Canning centers provide space and equipment for families with limited home facilities; permit all or several members of a family to work together; provide instructions in approved methods for inexperienced canners; and permit employed persons to can after working hours. In addition, they provide facilities for preserving foods for school lunch programs and various types of welfare institutions.

The canning centers, generally well equipped, can accommodate large numbers of people during the season. They are usually operated by community groups, schools, churches, cooperatives, and similar organizations.

While canning accounts for the greater part of the food preservation effort, greater numbers of schools and homemakers are turning to freezing methods. Others dry, pickle, brine, and store foods while fresh to make sure of "three squares" a day during the long winter months.

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